

WORLD REACTION TO THE PRESIDENT'S ASSASSINATION

Ultra rightists were responsible for the murder of President Kennedy, according to the general line adopted by the Communist propagandists in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Communist China has not yet spoken.

Oswald is characterized as a gangster and Trotskyist by Moscow media. He is regarded as a conspirator with Ruby in a plot by the American radical right.

Free World observers also tend to see a plot by the right wing, racists, or others.

(A public opinion survey from Paris, summarized in this report, shows 33 per cent of young adults believe a racist organization backed Oswald. Among Parisians interviewed, 58 per cent believe Ruby killed Oswald to prevent further police inquiries.) Summarized on Page 21 in this report.

Press reports available from Africa show heavy emphasis on the racist theme. The contention is that the President was shot because of his civil rights stand.

In Western Europe the press does not believe events happened as indicated. There is a general atmosphere of suspicion and disbelief and overwhelming criticism of police performance. One block of comment is anti-Texas in general.

From reaction available so far, only one source in Chile, clearly attributes the plot to Castro. Observers in Nationalist China and Latin America see a Communist plot, but these reports are not numerous.

Hanoi blames U.S. politicians, and the Arab press sees a Zionist conspiracy.

Excerpts from the various themes follow, arranged by subject. Also attached, pages 22 to 24, is an analysis of Communist propaganda treatment.